

hands. We are vaccinating as fast as we can, but I am letting you know that Texas has all five of the variants of COVID-19. They have long-haulers in Texas, people who have continued to have COVID-19.

To save lives, I am asking my fellow Texans—as I know President Bush always used to call us, his “fellow Texans”—to wear your masks, wash your hands, socially distance to save lives.

Let's ignore wrong-headed advice and do what is right to save lives.

HONORING KERRY MCDANIEL

(Mr. GUTHRIE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, sadly, Kerry McDaniel passed away in February at just 65 years of age from COVID-19 complications.

Kerry was described as “can't be replaced,” “top-notch in every regard,” and “an exemplary model of generosity and selflessness.”

Kerry loved serving his community and did so in various positions throughout the years. For almost three decades, Kerry worked for the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection, and most recently, he was the Hart County Emergency Management Director and Solid Waste Coordinator.

As a frontline responder, he worked hard to obtain personal protective equipment and protect Hart County from COVID-19. Throughout the county, Kerry was known for his service and generosity to others.

Kerry is survived by his dear wife, Vicki; his son, Curtis; his daughter-in-law, Tara; his grandson, Briar Allen, and many other family members he loved so dearly.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have known Kerry; he was an exemplary citizen. Kerry was a great friend, and he will be missed by all who knew him.

□ 2100

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN WILL MAKE ECONOMY STRONGER

(Mr. CASTEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, for the one in eight Americans who will go to bed hungry tonight; for the 60 million Americans out of work and the 40 million who fear they might be evicted tomorrow; for the 2.3 million women, a million mothers, who have left the workforce, the American Rescue Plan is for you.

It will put money directly in your pockets; expand access to affordable healthcare and childcare; extend unemployment insurance and housing and nutrition assistance; and support 27 million children with an expanded child tax credit.

Mr. Speaker, for the 1.4 million public-sector employees who are out of

work—our firefighters, our teachers, our frontline public health workers, our first responders—we are going to provide \$350 billion for States and localities, including \$13.7 billion for my State of Illinois, to get you back to work, too.

We can't fix everything. 524,000 American lives lost to COVID are never coming back. But tomorrow, when we vote to pass the American Rescue Plan, we will honor their memory. We will make things a little easier for their loved ones. We will get their kids back in school safely, their family businesses back in the black, cut child poverty in half, create 4 million new jobs.

Most importantly, we will emerge from this crisis with an economy that is stronger, more equitable, and poised for growth for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all of my colleagues in the House and Senate who made this possible. Let's get this done.

PRO ACT MUST HAVE EXEMPTIONS

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I am from California, and almost 2 years ago, the State passed a bill known as AB-5, where all workers would be presumed as employees unless the worker can show that they satisfy all three prongs of what is known as the ABC test.

It went into effect in January 2020, and it had quite a few exemptions in it—barbers, musicians, translators, home inspectors, golf caddies, things like that. But after the bill passed, flaws were found in it. They had to go back and legislate again to add newspapers. They had to go back and extend the time for others for when it would kick in.

So, what is happening? Here in this House, we are on H.R. 842. Now, I had an amendment that would provide for some of those exemptions. This provides for zero exemptions for this requirement that all would be presumed as employees.

We are going to go ahead and do actually worse than the State of California, passing the PRO Act without the exemptions.

Government should be here to foster economic growth, not restrict it. The PRO Act would kill growth, squash innovation in the gig economy and the American economy.

Why are we going backward here when we can learn from California's mistake?

SUPPORTING WORKERS BY SUPPORTING UNIONS

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in sup-

port of our Nation's greatest asset, our workers, our essential workers—nurses, teachers, mail carriers, transportation, sanitation, and food industry workers, among so many others—who have lifted the Nation with their sacrifice and bravery.

Just as they have supported us, we must support them by supporting unions. Attacks on unions, and a series of significant actions by the former administration, have weakened worker protections and, in turn, destroyed the middle class.

That is why I was proud to just vote to pass the Protecting the Right to Organize Act, the most significant upgrade for workers' collective bargaining rights in more than 80 years.

If we are to fully recover from this deadly pandemic and build back better, we must invest in and protect the rights of our workers to unionize. American workers and their families are depending on us.

ENTREPRENEURS WILL BE HARMED BY PRO ACT

(Mr. OBERNOLTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I fear that H.R. 842 is going to have serious long-term consequences for entrepreneurialism here in America.

Mr. Speaker, I started a company 30 years ago out of my college dorm room at Caltech, and I grew it the way that most small businesses are grown in America. I grew it organically. That means that when I had a little bit more business than I, myself, could do, I contracted that business out to other people who could do that business for me.

Mr. Speaker, under this bill, that practice will be illegal because it violates the so-called B pillar of the bill that prohibits any contracting that is related to the core business that a company engages.

Mr. Speaker, if H.R. 842 had been the law of the land, I would not have been able to start my company, and the hundreds of jobs that we have created would not have been created here. But they will be created elsewhere, in other countries, with more sane and less restrictive laws.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a “no” vote on H.R. 842.

GETTING BACK ON TRACK WITH AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago, almost to this very day, is the day when COVID-19 was officially declared a pandemic. One year ago, we didn't know that this pandemic would infect millions of Americans or kill thousands of Texans in my home State and hurt so many disadvantaged communities.

But after a year of darkness, we are finally seeing the light because the

House will pass, tomorrow, the American Rescue Plan, a comprehensive plan that the Biden-Harris administration and our Democrat-led House and Senate has crafted which will give constituents in the district that I represent, and all Americans, the chance for some relief.

Our plan will help crush the COVID-19 virus and get the economy moving again by getting vaccines into arms across the country. Because in places like my home State of Texas, where Greg Abbott, who is the Governor, is prematurely lifting COVID-19 restrictions, the best thing we can do to combat a potential surge against the virus is to make sure that everybody has a vaccine.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I am a proud supporter and will vote for the American Rescue Plan tomorrow, because we need a bold solution like this one for our country and economy to get back on the right track and to get back to normal.

DELIVERING FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Ms. STEVENS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a Michigander as my home State is recognizing 1 year from the arrival of our first cases of COVID-19.

I rise today to say that more help is on the way, that today we are delivering for the American people and delivering for my home State of Michigan.

I rise today to say that we passed the PRO Act to stand up for hardworking Michiganders, that we will get rid of right-to-work, that people are at the heart of what we do here in this Chamber, and that by prioritizing the legislation that stands up for hardworking Americans, we are delivering for them.

Tomorrow, we will pass the Butch Lewis Act. We will right the pensions of almost a million Americans. That is what we came here to do. That is what unity is.

DEMOCRATS' SPENDING BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. KUSTOFF), my friend, who had someone that was very special in his life that he wanted to talk about.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DREW DANIEL

Mr. KUSTOFF. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague from Arizona for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here tonight saddened because a little over a year ago, I took to the House floor to pay

tribute to a dear friend, Peggy Daniel of west Tennessee, who had recently passed away.

Today, we honor the life of her son and my friend, Drew Daniel, who left us way too soon. Drew passed away last week. He was a native of west Tennessee, the son of my friends, Peggy and Jimmy Daniel.

Drew moved to Shelby County in the early 1990s for college, and he received his bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Memphis, where he then later achieved a master's degree in public administration. Drew interned in the House of Representatives for then-Congressman Don Sundquist, who also was a close and dear friend of Drew's parents.

Drew loved to volunteer for his community, and he was an active member of the Boy Scouts of America, the Midtown Rotary Club, and Memphis City Beautiful Commission.

Drew was also extremely active in the Shelby County Republican Party and the Tennessee Republican Party. He had served as the Shelby County Young Republican chair and was an elected member of the Tennessee State executive committee of the Tennessee Republican Party. In 2019, Drew was selected as a Tennessee Republican Party Statesman of the year.

Drew was also a longtime valued employee for David Lenoir in the Shelby County Trustee's Office and then an agent for New York Life.

Without a doubt, Drew was a dedicated leader with a heart for public service and also for volunteerism. I really don't know many people who were more passionate about politics or their community than Drew Daniel.

I have so many memories, seeing Drew and Peggy cheering on the Memphis Tigers in the Liberty Bowl and the FedEx Forum. Truly, as good of a person as Drew was, he was a great son to his parents and a terrific brother to Mike and Melanie.

We are all better because of Drew, and he will be deeply missed by everyone. Roberta and I extend our deepest sympathies to his brother, Mike, and his sister, Melanie. Rest in peace, Drew.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, when we have someone special in our districts like that, sometimes with the chaos around here, it is hard finding time.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things I wanted to do this evening is to start to build on a theme that I have done in the past, and I hope to be able to do over the coming months. But it is a little difficult right now because, let's be honest, the House is spending money at a pace where it is really hard for the Joint Economic Committee and even my own staff to try to keep up.

We are going to talk about what is going on, a couple of things I really want us to start to put in the RECORD, talk about, and get our heads around.

I have an absolute fixation of a moral obligation to the working poor in this

country and an understanding of what happened in 2018 and 2019 when the working poor, the value of their labor—and understand, for many of us who have graduate degrees and those things, who can work behind a computer, great. Our skill set is what we are selling.

For much of the workforce, if you didn't finish high school or you have moderate skill sets, your labor is your value. What is going on here right now is almost a type of economic violence to that labor value.

Yet, I am not sure my brothers and sisters on the other side even see it. So, let's first delve into a little bit of what is going on at the border. Do understand, one of the things we see in the math from 2018 and 2019, when the working poor got dramatically less poor, the first 2 years in modern times where income inequality shrank—not because rich people got less rich, but because poor people made money—the value of their labor increased because they weren't competing with armies of other unskilled labor.

Mr. Speaker, if we are going to be honest around here and say we care about the poor, that we care about the working poor, don't you see the economic violence we are allowing to happen at the border, making our folks have to compete with floods of moderate- to low-skilled immigrants? I know it is an uncomfortable conversation, but we need to see it in the totality of the people we claim we care about.

Then, the other day, I made a mistake on one of the hard-left-leaning cable television shows. They were trying to compare what we did in tax reform to the Democrats' \$1.9 trillion spending bill and said: Well, they are both \$1.9 trillion. But look here, this went to tax cuts, where this goes to spending. Isn't the spending so much more wonderful?

□ 2115

Once again, I need my brothers and sisters on the left to go back to school and spend a moment paying attention in their economics class. The elegance of the tax reform was that it made the value of workers' labor more valuable because the economy grew. We specifically made it so businesses would take part of that tax reform and put it into things that made their businesses more productive, making it so you can pay people more.

Remember, individuals' wages go up on two things, inflation and productivity. It is one of the reasons in 2018 and 2019 we had the fastest wage growth of workers, particularly the working poor in modern history.

So what is the Democrat solution to help these populations?

We are going to send them a check. And maybe part of that is good. There are people out there who are really suffering and hurting.

But what do we do next year?

The elegance of when you have someone's labor become more valuable is